

## SECURE INFORMATION HANDLING SYSTEM

### Abstract

5 A method is disclosed for enabling functions of an information handling system  
such as startup (i.e., boot), loading of an operating system or execution of a software  
application, by requiring authentication of the information handling system. A client  
information handling system establishes a communication link with a central system or  
server via a network such as a Local Area Network (LAN) or the Internet. A request for  
authentication is then sent to the central system by the information handling system via  
10 the communication link. The central system, upon receiving the authentication request  
from the information handling system, determines if the authentication request is valid,  
and, if valid, provides authentication of the information handling system via one or more  
encrypted tokens passed from the central system to the information handling system,  
thereby allowing the information handling system to provide or continue to provide the  
15 function, even when disconnected from the network.